Shock and Awe as Ognong Named Jack Kent Cooke Scholar

Total surprise, shock and awe were words to describe the expression on Jean-Blaise Ognong's face, when he was lured to the Alexandria provost's conference room on April 30 and informed he had been named one of this year’s Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholars. Ognong, whose home country is Cameroon, will receive up to $30,000 a year to complete his undergraduate education. He is one of 51 students receiving this annual scholarship, out of 732 potential applicants nationwide.

This is the second year in a row that a NOVA student has been named a Jack Kent Cooke scholar. Last year, Alexandria student Dan Nechita received the honor. He is now studying at Columbia University in New York.

Ognong plans to attend Georgetown University, but will be taking classes this summer at NOVA.

“I am so very grateful and happy,” he said, during the emotional presentation. “I want to thank everyone for their support.”

Congratulations!

Left: NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. and Alexandria Campus Provost Jonathan Gueverra with Jean-Blaise Ognong. Right: Ognong has a look of disbelief as he is told he won a Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship, while Executive Vice President John T. Dever looks on.

Photos by Sue Davis
Faculty Focus Features  “Concept Maps in the Research Process”

April’s topic for the Annandale LRS Faculty Focus series was concept mapping – a graphical representation that shows relationships between learning and understanding – as a way to help students comprehend the research process. Kevin Simons, instruction and reference services librarian, discussed the different types of maps, their use in brainstorming researchable topics and their relationship to searching electronic databases. Irene Osterman, library specialist, then demonstrated the use of a concept mapping software package called Inspiration 8 (http://www.inspiration.com/).

The Annandale library has installed the new software on its classroom computers for faculty and student use in developing concept maps for their projects. As a result of this Faculty Focus, a special session on concept mapping was conducted for students in John Christmas’ BIO101 classes.

Student Request Proves NOVA’s Reputation Stretches Far and Wide

The Public Information office receives dozens of phone calls, e-mails and letters each week with requests for class schedules, guest speakers for organizations and inquiries about faculty, staff or academic programs. Occasionally there’s even a request from a prison inmate who is interested in enrolling in distance learning classes. This week, the following letter arrived:

My name is Ali Mulvey. I am a fifth grade student at Knoxville Junior High. As part of our English class, we are learning how to write business letters. Each student has picked a college or university to write to for practice. I chose your college because your college is interesting to learn about. We are also asking that you would respond to our letters and send any type of souvenir or collectible we could add to our collection. In the past, we received many different things, like pencils, t-shirts, pennants, magnets .... I would appreciate any thing you would send to help with our project.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and help my class. Maybe someday I will be able to visit your campus.

Sincerely,
Ali Mulvey
Knoxville, Illinois

Ali’s letter was promptly answered by Sue Davis, public information office coordinator. She sent Ali information about NOVA and enough pencils and lanyards to distribute to her 5th grade English class.

Research indicates that the earlier young people start thinking about college, the more likely they are to choose that path to success. Kudos to Ali’s teacher for combining an English lesson with practical college and university research. It’s amazing how far Northern Virginia Community College’s name is known!

WANTED: Your News

Check out the Intercom submission guidelines at:
http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines.htm
NOVA Hosts Seminar on Identity and Global Conflict

On April 20 and 21, NOVA and the U.S. Institute of Peace co-hosted a seminar at the Ernst Center titled “Identity and Global Conflict: Implications for the 21st Century.” The event, one of the College’s initiatives toward internationalization was organized by Paul McVeigh, vice-president for global studies and programs, and drew an audience of professors and scholars from around the area.

Presentations were made on issues of identity, culture and peacemaking around the globe, with a particular emphasis on the implications of those concepts for the College curriculum. Guest speaker Nader Ayish of Fairfax County Public Schools focused on stereotypes of Arab Americans in popular culture, while David Smith of the U.S. Institute of Peace offered examples of community colleges that have integrated peace studies into the academic curriculum.

Development Funds Available

When was the last time you were offered funding support to attend a professional conference or meeting without having to beg for it first? The human resources office currently has some funds available in the professional development budget to help support faculty members and classified staff to pursue this kind of professional development activity.

Find out how to take advantage of this fiscal year-end offer by contacting Kathy Weiner at kweiner@nvcc.edu.

Student Garners Prestigious Fellowship

Gail Fraleigh, a student in Cindy Miller’s NAS 162 class has been awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship for a summer research experience at George Washington University. The grant is for a one-week workshop and a nine-week laboratory research project. Fraleigh will receive a $4,000 stipend and a housing allowance.

The program is highly competitive, admitting only seven undergraduates – from a pool of more than 100 applicants – from four-year schools and community colleges across the United States.

Xu Entertains at Governor’s Luncheon

Governor Timothy M. Kaine and VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois hosted a luncheon at the Executive Mansion in Richmond on March 29 to help elevate awareness and cultivate potential supporters and contributors to the VCCS Educational Foundation, which underwrites the Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship. Community college students provided art, music, flowers and the cake for the occasion, showcasing their academic and career achievements.

Dr. Barbara Ryland-Wells, assistant dean of the music program (AL), recommended student Timothy Xu (pictured at left with Ryland-Wells) to be the featured pianist for the event. Xu “tickled the ivories” with his selections, much to the delight of all the attendees.
Intercom Summer Schedule

It's time for *Intercom* to begin its summer publication schedule, so mark your calendars and plan accordingly! The last weekly edition of *Intercom* will be dated May 11. Our regular schedule will resume on September 14.

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MEC’s Allied Health Division Congratulates Faculty of the Year Nominees

Annandale Celebrates Library Week

The Annandale Campus library celebrated National Library Week with contests and a luncheon for students on April 19. One contest asked students to identify Library of Congress call numbers strategically placed around the LRS. The winner was Marshall Swing, a home-schooled student taking classes at NOVA.

The library staff invited campus leaders and friends to encourage reading and promote a favorite book by posing for “READ” posters (like the one pictured at left featuring Provost Barbara Saperstone), which are on display in the library lobby.

The MEC’s allied health division congratulates its nominees for the Faculty of the Year Award. Front row, from left: Award recipient Linda Gill (dental hygiene), nominees Barbara Hays (health information management), Mary Pat Obrian (nursing), Paula Smith (physical therapy), Dental Hygiene Assistant Dean Edith Tynan and Dawn Southely (dental hygiene). Back row: MEC Acting Provost Brian Foley (left) and Division Dean Howard Kelley were on hand to applaud the nominees.